

Supplementary Information 4  
Quality Appraisal Checklist – Qualitative Studies

Concerns about disclosing a high-risk cervical human papillomavirus (HPV) infection to a sexual partner: a systematic review and thematic synthesis.

<b>ID Number (on Excel spreadsheet)</b>		
<b>Date form completed</b>		
<b>Assessed by</b>		
<b>Authors</b>		
<b>Title</b>		
<b>Journal</b>		
<b>Year</b>		
<b>Volume</b>		
<b>Issue</b>		
<b>Pages</b>		
<b>THEORETICAL APPROACH</b>		
<b>Is a qualitative approach appropriate?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the research question seek to understand processes or structures, or illuminate subjective experiences or meanings?</li> <li>Could a quantitative approach better have addressed the research question?</li> </ul>	Appropriate Inappropriate Not sure	Comments:
<b>Is the study clear in what it seeks to do?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the purpose of the study discussed – aims/objectives/research question/s?</li> <li>Is there adequate/appropriate reference to the literature?</li> <li>Are underpinning values/assumptions/theory discussed?</li> </ul>	Clear Unclear Mixed	Comments:
<b>STUDY DESIGN</b>		
<b>How defensible/rigorous is the research design/methodology?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the design appropriate to the research question?</li> <li>Is a rationale given for using a qualitative approach?</li> <li>Are there clear accounts of the rationale/justification for the sampling, data collection and</li> </ul>	Defensible Indefensible Not sure	Comments:

<p><i>data analysis techniques used?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Is the selection of cases/sampling strategy theoretically justified?</i></li> </ul>		
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>		
<p><b>How well was the data collection carried out?</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Are the data collection methods clearly described?</i></li> <li><i>Were the appropriate data collected to address the research question?</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Was the data collection and record keeping systematic?</i></p>	<p>Appropriately</p> <p>Inappropriately</p> <p>Not sure/inadequately reported</p>	Comments:
<p><b>Is the context clearly described?</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Are the characteristics of the participants and settings clearly defined?</i></li> <li><i>Were observations made in a sufficient variety of circumstances?</i></li> <li><i>Was context bias considered?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Clear</p> <p>Unclear</p> <p>Not sure</p>	Comments:
<p><b>Were the methods reliable?</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Was data collected by more than 1 method?</i></li> <li><i>Is there justification for triangulation, or for not triangulating?</i></li> <li><i>Do the methods investigate what they claim to?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Reliable</p> <p>Unreliable</p> <p>Not sure</p>	Comments:
<b>ANALYSIS</b>		
<p><b>Is the data analysis sufficiently rigorous?</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Is the procedure explicit – i.e. is it clear how the data was analysed to arrive at the results?</i></li> <li><i>How systematic is the analysis, is the procedure reliable/dependable?</i></li> <li><i>Is it clear how the themes and concepts were derived from the data?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Rigorous</p> <p>Not rigorous</p> <p>Not sure/not reported</p>	Comments:
<p><b>Is the data 'rich'?</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>How well are the contexts of the data described?</i></li> </ul>	<p>Rich</p> <p>Poor</p> <p>Not sure/not reported</p>	Comments:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Has the diversity of perspective and content been explored?</i></li> <li>• <i>How well has the detail and depth been demonstrated?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are responses compared and contrasted across groups/sites?</i></li> </ul>		
<b>Is the analysis reliable?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Did more than 1 researcher theme and code transcripts/data?</i></li> <li>• <i>If so, how were differences resolved?</i></li> <li>• <i>Did participants feedback on the transcripts/data if possible and relevant?</i></li> <li>• <i>Were negative/discrepant results addressed or ignored?</i></li> </ul>	Reliable Unreliable Not sure/not reported	Comments:
<b>Are the findings convincing?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Are the findings clearly presented?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are the findings internally coherent?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are extracts from the original data included?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are the data appropriately referenced?</i></li> <li>• <i>Is the reporting clear and coherent?</i></li> </ul>	Convincing Not convincing Not sure	Comments:
<b>Are the findings relevant to the aims of the study?</b>	Relevant Irrelevant Partially relevant	Comments:
<b>Conclusions</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How clear are the links between data, interpretation and conclusions?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are the conclusions plausible and coherent?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have alternative explanations been explored and discounted?</i></li> <li>• <i>Does this enhance understanding of the research topic?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are the implications of the research clearly defined?</i></li> <li>• <i>Is there adequate discussion of any limitations encountered?</i></li> </ul>	Adequate Inadequate Not sure	Comments:
<b>Ethics</b>		

<b>How clear and coherent is the reporting of ethics?</b> <i>For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have ethical issues been taken into consideration?</li> <li>• Are they adequately discussed e.g. do they address consent and anonymity?</li> <li>• Have the consequences of the research been considered i.e. raising expectations, changing behaviour?</li> <li>• Was the study approved by an ethics committee?</li> </ul>	Appropriate Inappropriate Not sure/not reported	Comments:
<b>Overall assessment</b>		
<b>As far as can be ascertained from the paper, how well was the study conducted? (see guidance notes)</b>	++ + –	Comments:

++ All or most of the checklist criteria have been fulfilled, where they have not been fulfilled the conclusions are very unlikely to alter.

+ Some of the checklist criteria have been fulfilled, where they have not been fulfilled, or not adequately described, the conclusions are unlikely to alter.

– Few or no checklist criteria have been fulfilled and the conclusions are likely or very likely to alter.